

CLARK COUNTY CLEAN WATER COMMISSION

Wednesday, November 15, 2000
6:00 – 8:30 PM

Clark County Public Works Department
Conference Room
4700 NE 78th Street
Vancouver, Washington

Call to Order

Roll Call:

Commission Members Present

Willie Bourlet, Cal Ek, Dana Kemper, Mary Martin, Susan Rasmussen,
Don Steinke, Art Stubbs and Peter Tuck

Commission Members Absent

Robert Agard

Clark County Public Works Staff

Kelli Frost, Earl Rowell, Jeff Schnabel, Rod Swanson, and Mike Swzaya

Public

Jay Harrison, Bill Kravas, Tom Newman, and Virginia VanBreeman

Introduction:

The members of the Clean Water Commission, Clark County staff, and the public were introduced. Vice-Chair, Commissioner Kemper, then called the meeting to order.

Statement from Mr. Bourlet:

Mr. Bourlet urged the Clean Water Commissioners to move forward with some of the issues they have been discussing over the last few months. One example being to develop a monitoring program.

Mr. Bourlet continued by making a motion for Mr. Ek and Mr. Tuck to work with Mr. Swanson in developing a water-testing program.

Mr. Ek: I agree. We need to develop a program to clean up the water, we also have to know that what we are doing is effective. Mr. Bourlet and I need to be able to tell our rural neighbors what we are doing with their clean water fee. At this time there is nothing constructive that I can tell them.

Mr. Steinke: I think that Mr. Rowell and his department are doing many things to clean up our water. I think our job is to provide oversight, not necessarily to do the work in cleaning up the water. I agree with Mr. Bourlet's motion, but I disagree when it's said nothing is being done to clean up the water.

The board approved Mr. Bourlet's motion.

Ms. Martin: Don't forget that one of our other tasks is to come up with an incentive plan.

Mr. Kemper: We need to make sure that an incentive plan is developed and presented to the Board of County Commissioners.

Ms. Martin: I think one of the reasons that the task force was able to accomplish so much in a short period of time was due to the facilitators who were able to keep the task force on track and focused.

Mr. Bourlet: Is there any possibility that we could have a facilitator assist this commission?

Mr. Rowell: Yes, if this group is interested, we could see about hiring the same facilitator that helped the Clean Water Funding Task Force.

Ms. Martin: Is it cost prohibitive?

Mr. Rowell: It wasn't identified in the original budget, but if this group feels that it is important then a recommendation should be made.

Ms. Martin: I move that we should look into the cost and feasibility of using a facilitator to assist us in developing an incentive plan.

The commissioners approved Ms. Martin's motion.

Agenda:

Earl Rowell reviewed the packet of materials for the meeting.

1. Agenda;
2. Notes from the November 1 meeting;
3. Database management material;
4. NPDES water quality monitoring project examples;
5. Letter from Leska S. Fore regarding setting up a monitoring program;
6. WEB site information <http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/cfda/p66433.htm> 66.433: State underground water source protection;
7. Article from The Columbian, Tuesday, November 14, 2000 titled: Stormwater refund creates legal jam; and
8. Article by Chris Swann, Center for Watershed protection, Elliot City, Maryland, titled: A Survey of Resident Nutrient Behavior in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Updates/Communications from the public/media/agencies:

Mr. Rowell: Rod Swanson and Cary Armstrong presented the Stormwater Best Management Practices manual to the Board of County Commissioners, who reviewed and adopted the manual.

We have been in communication with the Battleground Reflector regarding Vanalco and Eastridge Business Park presenting their appeals of the clean water fee before a Hearings Examiner. The Hearings examiner listened to testimony and stated that even though the regulation may not be the best written, he had to abide by the ordinance; as a result the appeals were denied.

Mr. Bourlet: Do we need our Prosecuting Attorney to reword the ordinance?

Mr. Rowell: Clark County staff will take a look at the ordinance and suggest modifications. Those modifications will be presented to the Clean Water Commission who will have the opportunity to make additional modifications. Finally, it will be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners. The Prosecuting Attorney will also look at it to verify legal issues.

Mr. Bourlet: Do we have a time frame in which to make these changes?

Mr. Kemper: We need to have our ideas taken to the Board of County Commissioners prior to the end of the fiscal year in July.

Mr. Rowell: My goal is to have staff present their changes by January 2001, submit it to the Clean Water Commissioners by February and finally to the Board of Commissioners in March/April.

Mr. Ek: Provided we stay with the criteria being impervious surface per parcel, we should revise the bill in which the parcel owner would indicate how much impervious surface they have and multiply it by the base unit in order to determine their total fee.

Mr. Bourlet: If we followed through with what Mr. Ek suggested, would anything in the ordinance need to be changed?

Mr. Rowell: The entire ordinance would have to be changed.

Mr. Ek: At the end of the year, if there are funds that have not been used, what happens to the money?

Mr. Kemper: It is transferred to rebate/incentive/capital programs.

Mr. Rowell: The money stays within the clean water program it is not deposited into the general fund.

Mr. Rowell: At the last meeting we had a representative of the Boy Scouts in the audience who suggested the possibility of collaboration with an Eagle Scout and the County. Bud Cave has been in communication with staff and there may be an opportunity for an Eagle Scout project within our program.

Mr. Bourlet: An Eagle project is not free help. Eagle Scouts plan projects, and make sure that they get the necessary people in place to complete the project, but they do not necessarily do the project themselves.

11/1/00 meeting notes:

The meeting notes for the November 1 meeting were approved as written.

Staffing Items:

Mr. Rowell: Sam Giese has been hired for the Engineer III position, a stormwater capital improvements engineer, he will also be working with the monitoring effort. Mr. Giese, a former employee of Clark County, has experience in stormwater related activities. He is familiar with fish barrier by-pass work, and he's been involved in Lakeshore and Salmon Creek capital improvement activities.

Public Input

Questions/Answers

Mr. Kravas remarked that the citizens of Clark County are concerned about the way the County is spending their money.

Ms. VanBreeman: I'm delighted to see that you are going to set up a program for water testing.

Mr. Newman: Can the water quality data gathered over the past two decades be utilized?

Mr. Swanson: The state compiles the 303D list every two years under the requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act. The purpose of the 303D list is to look at the available data on each water body, which is generally collected by the Department of Ecology. The data collected is usually garden-variety indicators like turbidity, fecal coliform, and temperature. The county itself does not do much water quality testing.

Jeff Schnabel explained one of his projects involving Lacamas lake. In Lacamas lake the main concern is nutrient contamination, such as phosphorous and nitrogen as well as suspended sediment loading.

Mr. Kravas: If water quality testing is such an important issue, why isn't there one person working on coordinating this program?

Mr. Bourlet remarked that they were working on developing this program.

Group Discussion

I-722

The county will be looking at all of their options in regards to initiative 722 and the stormwater management program. One of the primary concerns is; what does the passing of I-722 mean to the clean water program, and will the money stay in the fund or will it be refunded?

Mr. Bourlet: I think a lot of people believe that since they have passed this bill they are not going to have to pay the clean water fee.

Data Base Management

Mr. Swanson reviewed his hand out regarding database management.

Mr. Swzaya reviewed his summary on the data management system. Mr. Swzaya explained that his responsibility within the County is to assist in a data management program and storm sewer inventory.

Action Items

Letter from CWC Chair to the Board – Expiration of CWC members

Mr. Rowell will draft a letter to the Board of County Commissioners requesting an extension of those Clean Water Commissioners whose term expires.

Mr. Bourlet suggested that due to the amount of work the Clean Water Commission has to finish, the second meeting of each month should not be open for public input. The public would be allowed to attend the meetings, but there would be no public input on the agenda.

Progress Report to the Board

Mr. Rowell reminded the Commissioners that by end of January 2001, this Commission will need to present a progress report to the Board of County Commissioners.

Update on partnership with schools

Mr. Rowell announced that Camas School District has agreed to partnership with the County. Currently Ridgefield, Hockinson, Camas, Battleground, Green Mountain, and Vancouver School District have agreed to partner with the County.

We have been working closely with the City of Vancouver, which has volunteered to let us utilize their Water Resource Education Center in our educational efforts within the schools.

Clark County Staff has been working with various custodians and facilities managers in BattleGround, Green Mountain, Hockinson, Ridgefield and Vancouver Schools Districts and teaching them how to use less and dispose of chemicals properly.

Evergreen School District has said no to a partnership agreement.

Mr. Kemper requested for Clark County staff to see if Evergreen School District is willing meet with staff regarding a partnership with the county.

Modifications/Corrections to the CCC 13.30A

The Commissioners agreed to table this item until the next meeting.

Grants

Ms. Martin made a motion for this Commission to actively pursue a grant writer.

All Commissioners agreed to this motion.

Future Meetings

Action Items

December 20 - Grant and Incentives.

January 3 - Draft report to the Board of County Commissioners

January 17 - Revising the ordinance.

Adjourn

Adjourn:

Commissioner Kemper adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is Wednesday, December 6, 2000.